

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

These days it is really hard to keep down the cost of residential phone service to an affordable level. Not only are there so many add-ons that the phone companies want you to subscribe to, but the many taxes that are added on to one's regular charges make it almost prohibitive for people on a fixed income to afford a "plain vanilla" residential phone! One of the things we have been able to do is to have a simple, most basic phone service, and use prepaid calling cards for our long distance calls. I believe that the USF proposal you are now considering has the potential of significantly increasing the fees that I will have to pay on such calls.

I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

James Schmidt  
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